

October 2022

# Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 (Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta)

## Preliminary Business Case phase

### Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 will deliver a 13km extension south of Light Rail Stage 3, linking Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta, via the Gold Coast Airport. It will provide 14 stations between Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta as identified through the Burleigh Heads to Tugun and Tugun to Coolangatta Multi-modal Corridor Studies.

This future southern extension of the light rail will service important cultural and urban attractions including the Burleigh Heads Village Centre, Palm Beach Village Centre, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Tugun Village Centre, Southern Cross University, Gold Coast Airport and Coolangatta shopping and business precinct. It also provides the opportunity for a future light rail extension into Tweed Heads, subject to Transport for NSW planning priorities.

### Corridor planning

#### Burleigh Heads to Tugun

The *Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun) Multi-modal Corridor Study* was completed in 2020. The aim of the study was to review all previous planning and develop an updated transport strategy for this corridor that considered all modes of transport including walking, bike riding, public transport and private vehicles.

The study identified that the Gold Coast Highway route from Burleigh Heads to Tugun has the greatest potential for a shift to public transport as it is close to where people already live and provides the opportunity to transform the Gold Coast Highway into a high amenity community boulevard through careful design and treatment. The study investigated alternative routes finding a light rail extension down the Gold Coast Highway was the most direct and efficient route.

#### Tugun to Coolangatta

The *Gold Coast Highway (Tugun to Coolangatta) Multi-modal Corridor Study* was completed in June 2022. The study builds on the work completed for the Burleigh Heads to Tugun section and considered all transport modes to determine the preferred function for the next 20 years. The study investigated alternative routes, finding the preferred route for a light rail extension to the Gold Coast Airport is along the Gold Coast Highway. The preferred route into Coolangatta is via Coolangatta Road and the Lanham Street Park to a station on Chalk Street. This is the most direct and efficient route.

For more information about the corridor studies, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4)

### Community engagement

Community engagement on the preliminary business case is taking place to coincide with the completion of the corridor studies:

- Burleigh Heads to Tugun completed from July to September 2021
- Tugun to Coolangatta in November 2022.

Community engagement provides the community with opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback on the project.

The Burleigh Heads to Tugun Community Consultation Summary Report was released on 4 April 2022 and shows that 63 per cent of residents surveyed support the project. Further information is available on the project website at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4)

The outcomes of the preliminary business case will be made available to the community once this stage of the project has been completed and TMR will continue to engage throughout all stages of the project.



Artist's impression: Chalk Street, Coolangatta.



## Heavy rail extension

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to planning and delivering for the future transport needs of the state of Queensland, including the rapidly growing Gold Coast region. The future extension of the Gold Coast line beyond Varsity Lakes will improve public transport connections in the region. TMR has preserved the rail corridor for this future extension and will continue to protect the corridor and future station locations in coordination with local government and other agencies.

TMR is undertaking business as usual review activities of the Gold Coast Heavy Rail Corridor between Varsity Lakes and the Gold Coast Airport to ensure the corridor remains suitable for the delivery of future heavy rail infrastructure and services. The project will confirm the corridor requirements, ensuring rail infrastructure, station footprints and active transport provision are compatible and complementary to the South East Queensland rail network and can successfully integrate with other developments and infrastructure within southern Gold Coast, including the Pacific Highway M1 Upgrade between Varsity Lakes and Tugun and Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4.

The Gold Coast Heavy Rail Corridor remains part of TMR's long term vision and is identified in the *South East Queensland Regional Transport Plans 2021*. Delivery of this extension is not currently committed and is subject to further planning, funding availability and statewide prioritisation.

Further information about this project can be found at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/gold-coast-heavy-rail-extension-varsity-lakes-to-gold-coast-airport](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/gold-coast-heavy-rail-extension-varsity-lakes-to-gold-coast-airport)

**LEGEND**

- Light Rail Stage 3
- Light Rail Stage 4
- Proposed light rail station location\*
- Future heavy rail
- Key road
- Key M1 upgrade features  
Upgraded overpass at Nineteenth Avenue, new M1 service road between Tallebudgera and KP McGrath Drive, and new off-ramp to Sarawak Avenue
- QLD-NSW Border

*\*Note: Station names are not final and are working titles only*

## Urban design

Community identity is an important aspect to the overall feel of a suburb and the local community who live there. Planning for future transport demands includes identifying opportunities to innovate and improve community spaces through urban design.

There are opportunities to transform parts of the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 corridor into high amenity community boulevards while ensuring heritage protection and maintaining vegetation screening.

Throughout community engagement, you can share your thoughts on urban design elements such as creating pedestrian friendly precincts, active transport options, tram station access arrangements, environmental aspects of the project and urban design and landscaping opportunities that celebrate community spaces and local character.

Burleigh Heads to Tugun Multi-modal Corridor Study - completed 2020

## Varsity Lakes to Tugun

The M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) upgrade project, which widens the M1 to a minimum of three lanes in both directions, is currently under construction. The project includes a new two-way service road on the western side of the M1 between the Palm Beach interchange and Tallebudgera interchange and new service roads through a widened M1 overpass at Nineteenth Avenue.

This improved connectivity for northern Palm Beach to the M1 will significantly improve access to and from Palm Beach, drawing some traffic away from the Gold Coast Highway and on to the M1.

Tugun to Coolangatta Multi-modal Corridor Study - completed June 2022

## Environment and Cultural heritage

Throughout all phases of the project, detailed environmental investigations and studies will continue to be undertaken to ensure all potential impacts and environmentally significant areas are identified and appropriately managed. This includes that all Australian and Queensland government's statutory requirements related to the environment are satisfied.

TMR recognise the cultural significance of the corridor, including Jellurgal and Tallebudgera Creek and continue to engage with Traditional Owner groups. Preliminary cultural heritage assessments have been carried out and further detailed investigations and studies will be undertaken to ensure all culturally significant areas are identified and appropriately managed.

As planning progresses, TMR will continue to work closely with members of the local indigenous community and Traditional Owners to carefully identify and protect valued and unique cultural heritage sites along the corridor.

## Active transport

A key objective of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 is to connect and provide communities with an attractive alternative to car travel as well as improved footpaths and bikeways. The following opportunities are being considered during the preliminary business case phase:

- providing footpaths and bikeways built along and adjacent to the corridor providing safer options to travel and more reason to leave the car at home
- providing easily accessible and longer-journey pathways increasing the amount of people using active transport to travel to and from essential services as well as cultural and urban attractions
- extending the Oceanway pathway to link our coastal suburbs through active transport and celebrate the iconic beauty of our Gold Coast beaches
- providing dedicated bridges for bikes and pedestrians across Tallebudgera and Currumbin creeks.

Possible future extension to Tweed Shire (subject to Transport for NSW planning priorities)



## Project funding

The Queensland Government has committed \$3.7 million to undertake a preliminary business case for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4, along with City of Gold Coast's financial contribution of \$670,000. An additional \$1.83 million has been committed by City of Gold Coast, bringing the City's total commitment to the preliminary business case to \$2.5 million and the total project investment to \$6.2 million.

## Project timeline

Since the Gold Coast Light Rail started operations in 2014, it has provided more than 63 million passengers (as at June 2022) with an alternative way to move around this growing city. High-capacity public transport such as light rail allows the Gold Coast to respond to population growth and preserve the attractiveness and liveability of the southern Gold Coast.

The light rail system is designed to be delivered in stages. Stage 3 will expand the tram network to 27km from Helensvale to Burleigh Heads, connecting communities to jobs, businesses, hospitals, education and coastal precincts. As the network expands and patronage increases, light rail will continue to help reduce demand on local roads and improve the liveability and urban amenity of the city.

The Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 Preliminary Business Case is currently underway. This phase includes:

- defining the project options to be evaluated in the preliminary business case
- community consultation on concept plans for the project
- conducting a preliminary evaluation of the costs, risks and benefits associated with the project options
- developing a detailed plan and budget for progressing to the next stage in the project (business case stage)
- reassessing the prioritisation of the project and alignment with strategic government priorities
- seeking approval and funding to progress to the business case stage.

It is anticipated the Preliminary Business Case will be completed by mid-2023.

A decision on future Queensland Government funding for the delivery of Stage 4 is dependent on the completion of a Detailed Business Case and funding from the Australian Government and City of Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 was included as an Early Stage Proposal on Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List, in June 2022.



## Get involved and have your say

We would like to hear your views and find out what is important to you. You are invited to participate in our community consultation program to find out more about planning for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 and provide your input.

### Provide your feedback online



Visit the interactive community consultation website to find out more about the project and provide your feedback.

Visit: [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4)



### Talk to us in person

The project team will be holding community drop-in sessions to enable you to ask questions and provide face-to-face feedback on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 planning.

Visit the website to find out drop-in session locations and times for community consultation for the Tugun to Coolangatta section.

Visit: [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4)

## Contact us

If you would like further information about Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 or to register for updates, please contact the project team:

Phone: 1800 316 365\*

Email: [gclr4@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:gclr4@tmr.qld.gov.au)

\*Check with your service provider for call costs.